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ABSTRACT

In a panel presentation, Americana, Colliers, Britannica, and World Book encyclopedias were compared. One member described her daughter's experiences in working on Britannica II. The organization of Britannica into a Propaedia, Micropaedia, and a Macropaedia was compared with the alphabetical arrangement of the others. The complex new form was expected to be confusing for most users. Other members of the panel compared the coverage of specific subjects in the four encyclopedias. They concluded that no one encyclopedia is best in accuracy, currency, organization, and depth of coverage. The ideal adult general encyclopedia is still not available. (Author/PF)

A LOOK AT FOUR ENCYCLOPEDIAS OF 1974

--ESPECIALLY BRITANNICA

by

A Special Committee

of

The Public Library of Youngstown and Mahoning County

The following pages are a typed version of a taped version of a presentation given to staff members of the Public Library of Youngstown and Mahoning County on May 24, 1974. Incorporated in the transcript are the notes and outlines prepared by the various participants. Rather than struggle with rearrangements or condensations, it was decided to reproduce the presentation essentially as it was given. A minimal amount of editing was done by Robert H. Donahugh, Assistant Director.

PARTICIPANTS

(In order of appearance)

Mrs. Hazel M. Ohl	Head, Reference Division
Mrs. Margaret Baxter	Head, North Branch Library
Marjory B. McCann	Cataloger, Technical Services Division
Donna A. Ernst	Librarian, Reference Division
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Mrs. Naomi Garver	Head, Boardman Branch Library
Mrs. Margaret Kollmorgan	Head, Austintown Branch Library
Mrs. Louisa Berger	Librarian, Reference Division
Mrs. Sophie Gulick	Head, West Branch Library

SCENE: The book selection room. Along the left wall are high windows with shades. At the front of the room is an A-V device on which various sketches or pages from various encyclopedia volumes will be shown. Except for the door in the right wall (and the aforementioned windows), most of the rest of the room is shelf-lined.

MRS. OHL:

Nearly ten years ago a committee of Youngstown librarians made an evaluative comparison of four encyclopedias. Now that the publishers of the ENCYCLOPEDIA BRITANNICA have published a totally new edition (the 15th) with some interesting differences from the 14th it was decided to take another look.

The same four encyclopedias have been examined: AMERICANA, COLLIERS, BRITANNICA and WORLD BOOK. A larger committee has been selected to check out the differences, similarities, excellences, failures in various fields. The participants are: Marjory McCann - BRITANNICA'S PROPAEDIA; Sophie Gulick - Geography; Donna Ernst - Literature; Robert H. Donahugh - Biography Survey & Comparison with the 11th ed.; Mary Stanek - Philosophy and Religion; Theresa Trucksis - Education; Norma Allen - Science, Technology, Business; Naomi Garver - Film, TV, Radio, Theater; Margaret Kollmorgan - Music and Art; Louisa Berger - Politics, History; Hazel Ohl - Minorities.

In offering these evaluations we are mindful of the fact that families can seldom afford more than one set of encyclopedias. We hope that this work will enable them to make a decision based on something more than a sales pitch. We also hope to remind librarians working with encyclopedias that they cannot be 100% sure of the answers found in the encyclopedias. It is evident that none of the four encyclopedias is perfect; none is completely reliable; not one can claim complete coverage of the world's knowledge. Coverage and arrangement depend upon the editorial staff. Bias, manner of presentation depend to a great extent upon the contributor.

A preliminary examination reveals that the encyclopedias have differences in arrangement that should be taken into consideration.

For quite some time now almost all encyclopedias have operated on the continuous revision policy. This means that only a part of the set is revised every year with the result that part of the set is up-to-date, part is pretty dated and the rest just so-so. All of the encyclopedias used in this evaluation are 1974 editions. We must remember that the Britannica should have a distinct advantage since this is a new edition - the 15th - and should be completely up-to-date. Continuous revision is still a part of their policy.

Anne Baxter, daughter of Mrs. Baxter, librarian at North Branch, was associated with BRITANNICA for a few years during the preparation of the new edition. Mrs. Baxter will share with us some of her daughter's experiences.

MRS. BAXTER:

Anne started to work for BRITANNICA in 1967 in the department which corresponds with the general public answering questions applying to criticism, etc. Then in 1968 she became sort of a Girl Friday for the managing editor, Don Stewart, who is now the associate executive director of publishing for ALA. Then in 1970 Anne was made a manager in the department which kept control of the articles being written for BRITANNICA III.

Each editor was assigned a girl in Anne's department and these girls handled all author-editor correspondence. They typed the letters, maintained files of all correspondence, and recorded everything, and followed up on overdue manuscripts. Then finally they made up check requests and paid authors.

When I was in Chicago recently I pumped Anne about the development of BRITANNICA III and took some notes. These are the things she told me.

She said they started planning the new edition in the late 50's or early 60's and began taking on staff in the mid 60's. At that time they began laying out the PROPAEDIA, which was called the Plan B Outline. The staff always referred to BRITANNICA III as Plan B.

At the same time they were starting to write entries for the MICROPAEDIA. The original plan was to capture an entire text of both the MICROPAEDIA and the MACROPAEDIA on computer. They wanted to have computerized typesetting and to develop an informational retrieval system which would permit them to do the indexing automatically; this would have been a real revolution in encyclopedia making, but it proved to be too mammoth a task.

They couldn't meet the deadlines for the completion of BRITANNICA III. One of the many problems which were too difficult for the computer was the fact that the MACROPAEDIA used a lot of diacriticals, that is, accent marks and foreign language typefaces. It was just too big a job so they gave up and went back to standard typesetting.

By 1969 most of the senior editors were hired and they began to mention articles for the MACROPAEDIA. The editors gave each author an outline to work from and then there was a bargaining period between the author and the editor. The purpose of the outline was to make sure that all aspects of the subject were covered and to prevent overlapping with other articles. The author didn't have to follow this outline rigidly if he could show the editor good reason for not doing so. This was the reason for the bargaining.

When the manuscripts started coming in they were received in all kinds of conditions: some neatly typed; some handwritten; some scrawled on odd sheets of paper; and some in foreign languages. (They had translators lined up for all languages, but some authors requested that their article be translated by a specific person.) After a manuscript was received it was sent to the proper editor to be edited, then retyped on copy fitting paper, that is, so many characters per line.

Anne's husband, Jim McKern, was manager of the one department which typed the manuscripts. Another department proofread the typed copy against the original manuscript. Then it went to the research department which checked the facts, dates, proper names and recommended the necessary changes to the editor. Another department styled the manuscript, making sure the BRITANNICA form was used for spelling, punctuation, capitalization, etc. The general editor read it for readability. It was then retyped and sent to the printer.

When the galley proof came back it was sent to the author for approval. By this time sometimes two years had passed, and the author would make changes to update the article. When the author sent the approved galley proof back, it went to all the departments again for final checking. Then it went back to the printer for page make-up. At this point the illustrations were inserted.

When the final printed pages were received copies were sent again to the author, but it was too late then for him to make any further changes for the first printing.

When the last pages had been sent to the printer, the staff had a champagne party to celebrate. Dr. Adler asked for anecdotes which they could include in a history of the making of BRITANNICA III. No one could think of a thing. Fortunately by the time I talked to Anne she had remembered a few anecdotes.

In one case they had sent a galley proof to an author two years after he had written the article and he replied that he hadn't written it. But when they sent him proof that he had written it, he then checked it over and approved it.

Another time a clerk accidentally sent galleys for an article to the wrong author who hade a couple of changes, approved it and sent it back. This mistake was caught by the editor.

Sometimes they had major catastrophes holding up production. One of the typesetters was in New York and copy was sent to him by truck. On the way back one of the trucks was hijacked with the week's work of galley proofs in it. The truck was never found so the typesetter had to print new galleys and send them on. Another time a barge carrying special paper for their photo proofs got hung up on a sand-bar in Canada and held up production for two weeks.

Those were all the anecdotes Anne could remember. I will conclude by saying that Anne's association with BRITANNICA got her six years of interesting and prifitable experience, a free copy of BRITANNICA III and a husband.

MRS. OHL:

BRITANNICA'S new plan provides for a PROPAEDIA, a MICROPAEDIA and a MACROPAEDIA. The PROPAEDIA is an outline of knowledge, the MICRO gives a brief statement of facts and is the index to the MACRO, which contains survey articles in depth.

The other sets have a straight alphabetical arrangement with the index in the concluding volumes. WORLD BOOK and AMERICANA use word-by-word alphabetization; COLLIERS and BRITANNICA use letter-by-letter arrangement.

Authority or contributors: AMERICANA gives full name and identification at end of most articles. WORLD BOOK and COLLIERS give full name only. BRITANNICA uses initials which are identified in the PROPAEDIA. All provide lists of contributors with credentials and names or types of articles written by them. AMERICANA has fewer signed articles than WORLD BOOK or COLLIERS. BRITANNICA has no signed articles in the MICRO; all, or almost all, in the MACRO are signed, with a few exceptions.

Bibliographies: AMERICANA has bibliographies for major articles only. WORLD BOOK gives a lot of bibliographic information in its Reading and Study Guides plus two lists of suggested readings prepared by a team of 30 librarians. COLLIERS still has it bibliographies in the index volume. There is no real connection with the articles. Occasionally articles in COLLIERS are accompanied by lists of further readings and lists of works. BRITANNICA has long, annotated bibliographies accompanying most of the articles in the MACROPAEDIA.

There are no maps in the MICROPAEDIA. In the MACROPAEDIA they are adjacent to the areas they illustrate. This is a change from the 14th ed. which printed an atlas/index volume.

Maps in COLLIERS and WORLD BOOK are consistently adjacent to the articles they illustrate. AMERICANA tends to bunch them up toward the beginning of the article, except for historical maps.

BRITANNICA has no separate maps of states or provinces. All other encyclopedias do. As for maps of cities, BRITANNICA excells in this; also found in COLLIERS and WORLD BOOK, not in Americana.

Topical maps of continents are excellent and scholarly in the BRITANNICA; in the WORLD BOOK they have a different focus - elementary to Junior High School. AMERICANA and COLLIERS have mediocre to good maps.

BRITANNICA is the only encyclopedia which does not provide pronunciation. COLLIERS uses the International Phonetic Alphabet. Keys to pronunciation symbols are found in volume 1 of WORLD BOOK and AMERICANA; volume 1 and 24 of COLLIERS.

All but BRITANNICA provide an index in the last volume. As mentioned earlier, the BRITANNICA is the index to the MACRO. A major entry is indicated by numbers following the heading or by "major reference" following the article. Index references to additional information follow the article.

Cross references are abundant in all three with WORLD BOOK probably heading the list in actual number. BRITANNICA is the only one using q.v. to indicate additional entries.

Self education is a goal of all encyclopedias, but three of these sets provide plans for a systematic approach. AMERICANA abstains.

WORLD BOOK for many years has provided a Reading and Study Guide with major articles. In this set there is an index to these guides in the last volume. There are lists of related articles, graded lists, an outline of the article and a list of questions. There is a good section on how to do research for term papers including correct form for footnotes, bibliography, etc. This is in the last volume.

COLLIERS has a Study Guide in the last volume and the bibliography is intended to help one lay out a course of study.

BRITANNICA'S new PROPAEDIA is another guide to self education. Miss McCann will give us a run-down on this.

MISS MCCANN: BRITANNICA - PROPAEDIA

The PROPAEDIA is the first volume and the first part of the BRITANNICA. The editors designed this book to serve two purposes. First, to present the detailed outline of the world's knowledge in a logical manner and second, to serve as a subject or topical index to the MACROPAEDIA.

In the editors' view the PROPAEDIA would enable an intelligent person to get an overview of a field of knowledge which he is not a specialist in and also to grasp its relationship to other fields of knowledge. He could then proceed to the MACROPAEDIA and read its articles on the subject.

First, I'll give a brief run-down on the construction of the PROPAEDIA. The editors divided it into ten general parts.

(Screen) The first nine parts tells what we know about ourselves and our world. The tenth part, branches of knowledge, tells the particular branches of knowledge in themselves. For example, mathematics, logic, science, history, philosophy and humanities. The editors pictured these ten parts as constituting a circle of learning with the tenth part in the middle and the other nine parts as equal segments of the circle. They put the tenth part in the middle because it has a special relationship to the other nine parts - sort of a doughnut pie.

The ten parts are further subdivided into a total of 42 divisions and 189 sections and these sections are further subdivided into outline form and this is a page from the outline of literature. (example on screen)

In the sectional outlines you also have the page references to the articles in the MACROPAEDIA and, in the interest of thoroughness, they give you three different types of page references. The first column consists of page references to major articles, the second column contains references to sections of articles, and the third column refers to shorter passages in the MACROPAEDIA. Biographical articles are not included in the

section outline but are given separately at the end. As an outline of the world's literature it is a logical, well-formed scheme that takes into consideration modern theories of relationships between the various fields of knowledge.

Since I work with the Dewey Decimal classification scheme, which is also an outline of knowledge, I could tell when I compared it with Dewey it is much better than the Dewey Decimal scheme in the way it organizes knowledge. However, as to usefulness for the student who wants a study guide, it does have some drawbacks.

First, its format is rather formidable. It has a rather fine print (you can tell from the section outline), and the language that they use in the section outlines is rather dry and scholarly; and they use a lot of terms which tend to confuse one not familiar with the vocabulary of the field.

If you want to take a specific topic and find out how it is related to other topics you may have a problem finding it in the PROPAEDIA, (unless you can think of the right relationships). For example, I tried to find library science and had a rather difficult time. It wasn't mentioned in the table of contents, which lists a brief summary of each division and section; and I thought there would be something in the education section because I was thinking of the educational functions of libraries. Libraries are not mentioned in the education section, nor are there "see also" references to the part of the PROPAEDIA that has library science.

Finally, by hit or miss, I happened to find it in the section on "Communication and Language." They think of libraries as a communication system which is rather logical, but if you don't happen to think of that first you'll have some problems.

I was examining a couple of other areas--medicine and literature fields and didn't have much problem finding the field of medicine (it was mentioned

in the table of contents) though when I finished reading through the outline I needed an Excedrin. The technical parts are hard to understand. In most cases the same thing is mentioned in two different places of the outline. They would only outline it in one place and give you a reference from another place--but I did fine one exception where they had outlined a subject in two different places and in two slightly different forms with no "see also" references between them. That happened to be "Health and Safety Laws." It was outlined under "Medicine" and also under "Public Welfare," but there is no connection between the two.

There are two other encyclopedias which also give some sort of study guide--WORLD BOOK and COLLIERS. The WORLD BOOK has some study guides in their encyclopedia and also in their Index they have little boxes on certain subjects, and in these boxes they give just a brief list of some study questions, a couple of bibliography sources. These would be useful for the teacher who needs more study questions for her students.

COLLIERS has a study guide in their index, but it doesn't have the scope of BRITANNICA; it simply indicates major articles in the encyclopedia to read in certain broad fields like literature, art, etc. COLLIERS would be most useful as a starting point for an average person or student. It doesn't overwhelm you with information and a confusing format.

In conclusion, the PROPAEDIA has a great outline but a confusing study guide. It will not be widely used. Only the most intelligent of students would get anything out of it.

DONNA ERNST: LITERATURE

The people at BRITANNICA are really braggarts in regard to BRITANNICA III. An in-depth examination of the encyclopedia proves what we have known all along--that no encyclopedia, no matter what its name, is sufficient unto itself.

My qualms with the content of the BRITANNICA are few. The coverage of contemporary and established literary figures, works, terms and periods is quite good, although the information is sometimes too brief. I found the BRITANNICA to be more up-to-date than the other encyclopedias (for example, the article in the MICROPAEDIA on Solzhenitsyn covers up to August, 1973). BRITANNICA seems to have more direct entries in the MICROPAEDIA under literary works than the others. The biographical articles in the MICROPAEDIA stress major literary works and overall themes rather than strict biographical material.

The BRITANNICA claims it is written for the "intelligent layman." Well, as an intelligent layperson, I found its prose cumbersome. After reading the MICROPAEDIA'S definition of poetry several times, I am glad I already knew that poetry cannot be adequately defined. The BRITANNICA offers no enlightenment. This is the ready reference of the MICROPAEDIA on poetry:

> "Poetry, variously defined, is formally recognizable and distinguishable from prose composition by its greater dependence on at least one more parameter, the line, which changes its appearance on the page."

Users go to an encyclopedia for background information. Therefore, the information presented should be easily accessible and lucid. You cannot go to the BRITANNICA and read a survey of American Literature or French Literature as you could do in the previous editions and as you still can do in the other encyclopedias. Instead, you must tread through the 174 pages of "Literature, Western" in the MACROPAEDIA. This is arranged by century and then by country. So to get from 17th century American Literature to 18th century American

Literature, you must skip ten pages. Perhaps this format and the 83 advisors/ contributors to the article prohibit continuity.

The BRITANNICA attempts to be scholarly, but scholarliness does not necessitate boredom--which is what I suffered after reading some of the MACROPAEDIA articles. The articles covering broad topics, for example, "Literature, Western" article, lack interest. Of course there are exceptions. The article on Shakespeare is readable and informative. The article on Thoreau is interesting but a bit one-sided. Carl Bode, the author of the article, cleverly destroys any grand ideas we have ever had about Thoreau.

Speaking of Thoreau's inspiring canoe trip along the Concord and Merrimac Rivers Mr. Bode says, "The experience was beautiful and indeed inspiring. It confirmed him in the opinion that he ought not to be a schoolmaster but a poet of nature."

Also speaking about Thoreau's life at Walden Pond, Mr. Bode said, "He (Thoreau) could easily grow his own beans, never mind if he dined out often."

The abstract of the text biography in the MICROPAEDIA gives no indication of the tone of the larger article. Needless to say, a student should consult the other encyclopedias to balance the view of Thoreau.

The article on Simone de Beauvoir is reminiscent of the prudishness of the 11th edition of the BRITANNICA. De Beauvoir's relationship with Sartre is described as excluding "such traditional relationships as marriage and parenthood."

The BRITANNICA skirts around the topic of erotica by giving a small definition under eroticism and then panning the rest of the discussion out to rather strange references such as, "aesthetic interpretation of Indian art;" "Indian poetic imagery;" "popular theatre's physicality;" and "Sade's philosophy of total freedom." Nowhere can you find a general article discussing erotica in literature and art. The AMERICANA does have a survey article of erotica.

The BRITANNICA is still guilty of omitting Edward Albee, the playwright. Also, the article on Howard Hughes mentions a hoax autobiography, but does not mention specifics such as Clifford Irving and the many characters involved in what has to be one of the greatest frauds of all time.

The content of the BRITANNICA is basically good, and you rate a gold star if you can get at the content through the fancy indexing. A good example of the irrational indexing can be found under Shakespeare in the MICROPAEDIA.

Working backward in the MACROPAEDIA under "Literature, Western" there is a sub-sub-heading "Czechoslovak." I could find no reference to this article in the MICROPAEDIA.

The BRITANNICA'S purposes are reference and education. Because of the intricacies of the indexing, the reference function is curtailed drastically. I have watched people approach the new BRITANNICA. They usually stare at it for awhile and then pick either the MICROPAEDIA or MACROPAEDIA. Usually it is the MACROPAEDIA (because it is bigger). They miss out on the "fun" of the MICROPAEDIA'S indexing as well as some pertinent information scattered throughout the MACROPAEDIA.

It takes time and a lot of patience to get educated through the BRITANNICA. In his review in THE NATIONAL OBSERVER (5/11/74, p.1), Bill Marvel states that home users are at a distinct advantage over the library users:

> "Home users can spend evening after evening pursuing a major topic through the MACROPAEDIA while a library visitor would be better off checking out a book on the subject."

It is nice to know that there are some romantics left; particularly, a whole company. Imagine sitting by the hearth in a Queen Ann chair and pursuing the outline of knowledge! Imagine having $548.00 to spare!

MR. DONAHUGH: BIOGRAPHY SURVEY & COMPARISON OF BRITANNICA 15th and 11th

As one interested in history and literature, I find myself referring often to my personal copy of the 11th edition of BRITANNICA. No other general encyclopedia in English includes so many names and so much information on the less prominent figures in history and literature. If one has all the supplements, one has an encyclopedia current to 1926.

Many of the names in the 11th edition are also covered in the 14th edition, but there is less and less information as the years go by: continuous revision forces the less prominent historical figure to make way for space, rock music and sciences - both social and anti-social. While I compared entries in the four encyclopedias under investigation, I also checked the 11th edition of BRITANNICA and the Italian encyclopedia, ENCICLOPEDIA ITALIANA DI SCIENZE, LETTERE ED ARTI.

Although I checked coverage on many fascinating characters, I'll select only the following:

Iagnacio Zuloaga, Basque painter

11th BRITANNICA - about 1/8 of a page

15th BRITANNICA - a brief article in Little Mike but he's called Spanish without reference to Basque-ness

AMERICANA - gives a different birthplace than the other three. No mention of Basqueness.

COLLIERS - Yes--and Basqueness

WORLD BOOK - No

ITALIAN - Yes

Hugo Kollontaj, Polish politician and writer

11th BRITANNICA - Yes.

15th BRITANNICA - No.

AMERICANA - No.

COLLIERS - in index; brief mention in another article.

WORLD BOOK - No.

ITALIAN - No.

Marion Delorme, mistress of Cardinal Richelieu - appears in a Victor Hugo novel.

11th BRITANNICA - 1/4 page.

15th BRITANNICA - in little Mike.

AMERICANA - No.

COLLIERS - No.

WORLD BOOK - No.

ITALIAN - Yes.

In general I find that the new BRITANNICA has retained many of the biographical entries from the 11th edition, but by no means all. AMERICANA and COLLIERS are very spotty on biography, and the fact that a name is in either's index is no guarantee that there is any real information in the text. WORLD BOOK isn't even in the running in this category; the Italian encyclopedia is generally superb in coverage, if you can surmount the language barrier. Personally, for my purposes, I'll stick to BRITANNICA II.

MARY STANEK: PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGION

My methods involved searching the indexes for a general idea of what was included and where, and then comparing the treatment of a sampling of articles dealing with different types of information--biographies, terms, major branches or divisions, schools of thought, writings, etc.

In most cases the BRITANNICA provided the longest and most thorough article. BRITANNICA has always had a reputation for excellence in the fields of philosophy and religion, and the reputation is upheld in the new edition. However, though Mortimer Adler claims that "the new edition contains no academic jargon," the wordy run-on style sometimes buries the information you are trying to extract. However, I found it much more readable than the classic 9th and 11th editions. I also discovered that in many cases, articles from the 14th edition have merely been rearranged, slightly expanded and perhaps updated.

Biographical articles are especially good. Often even relatively obscure figures like Hincmar of Reims rate MICROPAEDIA coverage and/or at least brief mention in the MACROPAEDIA.

Currency was somewhat disappointing in all encyclopedias examined. None mentioned the Jesus movement or female rabbis, for example. BRITANNICA seemed to have the most up-to-date coverage. Granted, there is not a need here to keep up with rapid changes or new breakthroughs, but one does expect contemporary trends to be noted, at least; and BRITANNICA seems to do this best. It was the only encyclopedia to mention the growing interest in Pentecostalism and to refer to continuing scholarship in schools of thought initiated by established philosophers or theologians.

COLLIERS proved to be quite variable. It was often outstanding but at times disappointing. Biographical coverage was not as broad as BRITANNICA'S. Some articles were too lofty or jargony in style and this lessened their

information value. Others were not as complete as they could have been. It was the only encyclopedia without a general Religion article.

AMERICANA was generally acceptable but never really outstanding. There is a tendency here to oversimplify or generalize--to digest a subject for the reader. Although articles lack the depth of BRITANNICA or COLLIERS-at-its-best, they are readable and logically arranged and generally capture the highlights adequately. I would probably favor AMERICANA for quick reference--a patron waiting on the phone, for example--since it can usually be relied on to provide basic identification.

The MICROPAEDIA claims to serve a ready-reference function but too often the first paragraphy of the MACROPAEDIA article is paraphrased or even repeated verbatim (instead of a brief summary), or you merely find a list of cross references, often in paragraph form.

Philosophy and religion are not strong points of WORLD BOOK. But this is to be expected in an encyclopedia geared to the curriculum needs of students from elementary through high school. Here again, coverage is uneven. All articles are short, but some are simplified to the point of distortion while others manage to be very concise. It is weak in the area of biography with many key figures omitted entirely, or glossed over. It is most useful for brief identification of variousisms, ologies, and movements.

Well, after checking and comparing articles in these two fields I couldn't help but philosophize a bit myself. So I'd like to posit two truths which became more and more evident:

1. If a pattern seems to be emerging--just compare another set of articles.
2. Consistency is an illusion.

It's really impossible for any one encyclopedia even to attempt to be all-inclusive. It's a Herculean task to try to meet curriculum needs, be useful

for ready reference, provide background information for scholars, and initiation for the non-specialist--all in the same article! Since all contributors are not equally competent and editorial control cannot be absolute, inadequacies, inconsistencies and idiosyncracies are to be expected. So, although it seems redundant, even general encyclopedias have to be used in combination for full coverage of a subject. At least this seems to hold true in the fields of Philosophy and Religion.

THERESA TRUCKSIS: EDUCATION

Both AMERICANA and COLLIERS are equal in readability. Although each contains many black and white photographs and illustrations, AMERICANA'S are more closely related with the text. BRITANNICA'S entry format is the poorest. Its long education entry (120 pages) is unrelieved by even one photograph, illustration or chart. Its print is smallest, columns widest and the overall impression of the page is of one of a great mass of words. In places the flow of rhetoric lacks economy, speaking much but saying little. All but the most determined are likely to be discouraged under these circumstances.

In spite of these shortcomings, BRITANNICA does have points of great strength. It is superior in the treatment of the history and philosophy of education and in international coverage. In these areas its discussions have depth and are generally the most scholarly. This strength does not, unfortunately, extend into current coverage. Here the treatment is rather shallow. Two of BRITANNICA'S special features are judged to have great value in locating information: margin notations and outlines preceding long articles.

A check of two biographical entries, Jean Piaget and James Bryant Conant, reveals that COLLIERS has no separate entry for Piaget and BRITANNICA has the broadest coverage. Although all three have separate entries for Conant, AMERICANA'S is best.

All encyclopedias examined claim currency and certainly a 1974 imprint should assure the reader (or buyer) of this. Unfortunately, it does not. AMERICANA'S update is poorest. A comparison with the 1970 edition reveals that the text for the entire education entry is reprinted word for word. Only a statistical table was updated. A check of bibliographies indicates they too have not been updated in at least 4 years. A bibliography of works included with the Conant write-up is even less current.

The best coverage for education in the United States is found in COLLIERS. This encyclopedia shows some uneven updating. The entry under "Current Trends," where one would expect to find recent information, is an exact reproduction of the 1969 edition. COLLIERS' bibliographies have been updated somewhat but list nothing published in the last 3 years.

A good discussion of the heredity-enviroment debate surrounding intelligence was not found in any of the encyclopedias examined. The best discussion of heredity versus environment occurs in COLLIERS, but little application is made to intelligence. Both AMERICANA and BRITANNICA treat the subject only superficially.

The WORLD BOOK Encyclopedia proposes "to meet the reference and study needs of students in elementary school, junior high and high school." It also is intended as a general family reference tool. WORLD BOOKS'S format is very attractive; there are frequent photographs and illustrations, many in color. Its policy of overall revision has been adhered to in both texts and bibliographies. A discussion of the heredity-environment debate does occur. However, the depth of coerage throughout is shallow, much too shallow to be considered of any real value to the high school student.

In conclusion, I generally agree with the others on this panel. The adult general encyclopedia meeting satisfactorily the full needs of libraries, adults and serious students has yet to be published. No one encyclopedia, now available, is best in accuracy, currency, organization and depth of coverage. For the present these needs can be met satisfactorily only by taking from each the best it has to offer.

NORMA ALLEN: SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

My approach to these encyclopedias was to compare six subjects and then to just browse through one volume of each set. I think there is definitely a browsing aspect to encyclopedias that cannot be ignored.

The subjects I chose and the reasons are as follows:

1. Advertising, since it is a modern social and business subject. There have been important changes in recent years. The illustrations should be exceptional.
2. Aspirin. A traditional medicine. I felt any article should have history as well as recently exposed dangers.
3. Borlaug, Norman. A 1970 Nobel prize winner. His subject field is agriculture. He has been connected with the so-called "Green Revolution." Some say the greatest problem of the 20th Century may be starvation and he is doing something practical to solve this problem.
4. Iron and Steel. Selected because we are a steelmaking area.
5. Management, which is now a definite science. Modern management techniques are even applied to libraries. I felt there should be good coverage of this topic.
6. General William T. Sherman. I have a personal interest in the Civil War. He remains a most controversial figure. Most of us have the "Gone with the Wind" view of him; but there is another side, and modern scholars usually give some indication of this.

What I found: a.) Advertising--all the articles were disappointing; the illustrations were poor or even drab; all had statistics and dated bibliographies; none really got into the modern techniques, although two did have Volkswagen ads. All had good historical background and were well organized and outlined. b.) Aspirin--WORLD BOOK was the best; COLLIERS hid under heading

of pharmacology and I never did locate the material; and the MICROPAEDIA had it under Acetylsalicylic acid and had 11 cross references. (It did not mention harmful effects.) c.) Borlaug was only covered in one set of the encyclopedias--WORLD BOOK. AMERICANA and COLLIERS did have him in the index. However, this just referred to Nobel Prize listings--no biographical information. d.) Iron and Steel--all the articles were good; all had good photographs and good illustrations; good bibliographies; and they included new processes. e.) management--I found they were all equally poor; and they had very small coverage in this field. f.) Sherman--WORLD BOOK and the MICROPAEDIA had the traditional view (also the AMERICANA); COLLIERS had a good interpretive article; and the MACROPAEDIA had an excellent interpretative essay similar to those found in Dictionary of American Biography.

In conclusion, I think AMERICANA has good, basic, unimaginative coverage. It is not keeping up to date as well as some of the others.

I got the impression from COLLIERS that the work as a whole is uneven. In some areas it seems to be keeping up but in other areas is falling behind. It rates high for browsing and has a delightful coverage of subjects.

I get the impression that WORLD BOOK is really in there trying. They are definitely in touch with the student world. They are trying to keep up to date. They cover the topics students ask for. The articles and approach are rather unsophisticated. I doubt there would be much serendipity involved in browsing through the set.

I dislike the BRITANNICA MICROPAEDIA. I dislike the format and I particularly dislike the extensive lists of cross-references. I doubt that anyone will follow through with them.

The layout seems strange to me. The pages seem cluttered.

I found some of the illustrations odd. The color was poor and the selection peculiar. Under the article on lead was a picture of the Homestead

Mine. There is a photograph of a head of lettuce and I doubt if this is asked for very often. Under David Livingston is a picture of Victoria Falls.

I leafed through many pages and I found very few people I had ever heard of or was interested in. I began to feel somewhat inferior. Then it occurred to me maybe it wasn't me; maybe the MICROPAEDIA is a little out of touch with what the general public is interested in.

I suspect the truth is that the BRITANNICA has taken the authoritarian approach to encyclopedias and are giving us what we should know rather than what we might want to know.

I also found one odd thing in alphabetizing. Le Mont-Saint-Michel was filed under "Le."

I found the BRITANNICA MACROPAEDIA portion of the encyclopedia to be good. I was surprised at the number of technical articles. The volume I examined had at least half devoted to science and technical subjects such as magnetism, machine tools, magnesium and even locks. It seems to me to be a quality work.

It is of course impossible to truly estimate the value of a reference work in such a short time, but these were my impressions. The idea keeps coming to me that maybe the general encyclopedia is obsolete.

MRS. GARVER: MOTION PICTURES, TELEVISION, THEATER

I had the task to examining the four encyclopedias, not in the area of one discipline, but rather in the area of three fields that occupy much of our leisure time - motion pictures, television and theater. The BRITANNICA had a total of 46 pages covering the motion picture industry, the art of motion pictures, and the history of motion pictures. The PROPAEDIA contains an outline on the subject with references to biographical articles on people in the field (only directors and producers, not actors). They are listed at the end of the outline. The indexing in the MICROPAEDIA is misleading, with the singular used for motion picture industry, and the plural for motion pictures, art and history of, which puts several unrelated articles between the two. Two-and-a-half pages are devoted to D. W. Griffith, pioneer film producer, his influence on acting, and his moral system; his films are discussed in detail, the only encyclopedia to give him such extensive coverage, plus a separate biographical article of one-and-a-half pages and list of major works. But the pictures for the article were disappointing.

COLLIER'S had 33 pages on the subject of motion pictures covering history, types and varieties, technical aspects, production, distribution, and censorship. Thumbnail sketches of stars, directors, and producers were at the end of the article, pictures were in black and white.

Bibliographical listings in the separate volume ranged from 1940 to 1970 in copyrights, but most were in the '60s. One-and-a-half columns of the article were devoted to D. W. Griffith, and a separate biographical article one column in length, was also available in the set.

AMERICANA devoted only 6 pages to motion pictures. One column in the article described the work of D. W. Griffith, and a separate article on him was one-half column in length. By the very difference in the amount of pages given to the subject, the AMERICANA suffers in comparison to the three others examined.

WORLD BOOK had the most colorful presentation of the subject. It included the importance of motion pictures, how they are made, animation, the industry itself, and history of motion pictures. WORLD BOOK was the only set examined to give coverage to the Academy Awards, including a listing of winners through 1972. Several paragraphs were devoted to D. W. Griffith plus a short biographical article. A listing of related articles in the set on actors and actresses, directors, and producers was included at the end of the article.

The article on television in the MACROPAEDIA of ENCYCLOPEDIA BRITANNICA is basically the same technical article as appeared in the 1968 edition, with a mere change of some words. For example, the 1968 ed. says "the iconoscope is obsolescent" while the 1974 ed. states "the iconoscope is no longer used." Three paragraphs on Cable TV have been added, and the bibliography has been changed from the earlier edition. To learn anything about programming aspects the article on Broadcasting must be consulted, while an article "television and radio, arts of" gives the reader the contributions made by television and radio to the arts of music, drama, poetry, ballet, and spectacle. To quote ENCYCLOPEDIA BRITANNICA'S opinion of the television commercial: "the television commercial had, at its best, become an art form in its own right. The purest example is the animated commercial, combining its own succinct, witty style and lightning continuity, art born entirely of television." ENCYCLOPEDIA BRITANNICA has not seen fit to include any biographical material, even in the ready reference section, on any TV personalities, past or present-at least none I could discover.

COLLIER'S has the same article on television as the 1969 edition except the pictures are updated, and a paragraph on public television and cable television inserted. The article covers technical aspects, of the four encyclopedias, programming, and regulation of same, and covers nine pages. AMERICANA gives the greatest coverage to television, covering everything from principles

to careers in broadcasting. This is a different article from the 1970 edition, although some of the same pictures are used. It has one-and-a half columns on Cable TV, mentions a 1971 FCC ruling with a see-also to Community Antenna Television. The bibliography listed no television engineering book with a copyright later than 1957. WORLD BOOK'S article covered 12 pages, included one-half column on Cable TV, with a listing of biographies of people in the field.

The main article on theater in all four encyclopedias treats the subject from viewpoint of architecture, history, and elements of the theater such as director, actor, scene design, etc. BRITANNICA still retains the British spelling of the word "theatre," and its article is twice the length of any of the other three. Theater of the absurd is dealt with briefly in all encyclopedias with the fullest coverage by COLLIERS, while the information in the MACROPEDIA of BRITANNICA on this subject contradicts that found in the MICROPAEDIA. COLLIER'S and WORLD BOOK give a listing of theater personalities, a useful addition.

I found no one set of encyclopedias examined to be outstanding. BRITANNICA'S print and format will turn many patrons away. With many of our student patrons, particularly junior and senior high, telling us the teacher will not accept information from the encyclopedia, one sometimes wonders if we get full value for money invested.

MRS. KOLLMORGAN: MUSIC AND ART

Music is found in BRITANNICA in both the MICROPAEDIA and the MACROPAEDIA. The MICROPAEDIA covers five columns and gives definitions and a brief summary of topics discussed in the main article in the MACROPAEDIA. There are many references to related articles listed. The article in the MACROPAEDIA covers 87 pages including illustrations and diagrams and deals with 11 amin topics with their own bibliographies and authors. The latest copyright dates in the bibliographies are in the late 1960's. Mentioned in the articles are tapes, cartridges, cassettes, the beatles and Elvis Presley. In the section under "Music, Theatrical," Jesus Christ Superstar is mentioned. Under "Musical Comedy" are mentioned The Boy Friend, Hair, and Jesus Christ Superstar.

In AMERICANA, the article covers 26 pages under separate main articles. There are some illustrations and diagrams and cross references to related topics. It mentions electronic music of the 1960's. It is signed and includes a bibliography with 1968 as the latest copyright date.

In COLLIER'S, music covers 73½ pages with separate topics. Illustrations and diagrams and tables are included. The section on music in the 20th Century mentions new trends through 1970, with a cross reference to "Rock Music." The articles are signed and include cross references. There are no bibliographies with the articles. They are found in the separate bibliography volume, and are pretty extensive with the latest copyright date being 1969.

In WORLD BOOK, music covers 24 pages and includes many illustrations (some in color) and diagrams. It deals mostly with classical music. It does include a list of great composers with dates and countries. It also includes an article on careers in music and other related articles. One sentence mentions music in the 1960's.

"Rock Music" as a separate entry is a new topic in all four of the encyclopedias. The articles vary in length from one-and-a-half columns in the

MICROPAEDIA under "Rock" to three pages in COLLIER'S. The Beatles and Bob Dylan are mentioned in all, with the most in COLLIER'S. AMERICANA mentions Jimi Hendrix dying in 1970. All have illustrations and are signed except BRITANNICA. Only AMERICANA has a bibligraphy with 1969 as the latest date mentioned. COLLIER'S includes a discography.

For the history of art one has to look in the MACROPAEDIA of BRITANNICA under "Visual Arts, Western," "Visual Arts, East Asian," etc. The article on "Visual Arts, Western" is 242 pages with 22 pages of colored plates. Art of the 1960's is included in the section on "Modern Art." The article is signed and has a very lengthy bibliography with many titles copyrighted in the late 1960's and the latest one in 1972. The history of art of other peoples not mentioned under "Visual Arts" is found under such headings as "African Peoples, Art of."

AMERICANA gives a very broad coverage of the history of art in only 8 pages including 2 pages of black and white illustrations. One has to use the index under "Art" for a more detailed guide for study. The article is signed and has a bibliography with 1966 as the latest copyright date.

In COLLIER"S, the article covers 24 pages including many black and white illustrations. Pop art and op art are mentioned as important movements in the 1960's. Cross references are listed within the article. It has an extensive bibliography in the bibliography volume.

The history of art is found in WORLD BOOK under Painting and covers 63 pages including 118 paintings in color (plus others in black and white) which represent the most important periods and styles. Post World War II European art and pop art are discussed briefly. One-and-a-half pages of study guides including lists of painters, styles, etc., are given. 1969 is the latest date given in the list of books for younger and older readers.

Op art is found in both BRITANNICA (the MICROPAEDIA only) and in AMERICANA as separate entries for the first time. Both articles are about the same

length and cover about the same material. Both include an op art painting. The MICROPAEDIA has cross references to other articles. COLLIER'S and WORLD BOOK do not have separate entries about it but their indexes do refer one to other articles, also. COLLIER'S and WORLD BOOK do not have separate entries about it but their indexes do refer one to other topics mentioning it. COLLIER'S lists three of the most famous op artists, WORLD BOOK mentions none.

As one can see from the foregoing, coverage varies according to each article in each encyclopedia. Most of them are fairly up-to-date although none really goes into any depth on the current aspects. No one encyclopedia is the all-around best.

LOUISA BERGER: HISTORY, POLITICS

In attempting to evaluate these four encyclopedias in the fields of history and politics I chose to investigate Watergate, biographical coverage of historical figures, treatment of the civil rights movement and information about organizations and associations.

Since Watergate seems to be a household word I'll begin with that: all four encyclopedias treat Watergate. All but COLLIER'S give it a separate entry; COLLIER'S includes its 1½ pages of Watergate coverage in the long article on Richard Nixon. All treatments are quite up-to-date so far as personalities of the burglary go. All make it through the dismissal of Archibald Cox and the appointment of Leon Jaworski (except COLLIER'S, which omits Jaworski for reasons I can't fathom since other information in the article indicates it was written, or at least revised, after Jaworski's appointment).

COLLIER"S is best on the Watergate-related scandals which plague this administration; AMERICANA is the most analytical about the meaning of Watergate. BRITANNICA is thorough as to the events, but does not probe the implications: WORLD BOOK Provides adequate but not spectacular coverage. There is one instance in which an error of fact is committed by both COLLIER'S and WORLD BOOK. Both say that William Ruckelshaus resigned rather than fire Cox; AMERICANA doesn't say anything. BRITANNICA has it right--Ruckelshaus was dismissed for refusal to carry out the Presidential directive to discharge Cox.

Now that I've said something nice about the BRITANNICA I'm going to complain. Most of my fault-finding with the BRITANNICA deals with the indexing. One does not find any of the Watergate personalities (Dean, Ehrlichman, Haldeman, Mitchell, etc.) in the index, but they <u>are</u> mentioned in the Watergate article. All of the other encyclopedias include index entries for these individuals. When one is currently asked "Who was Vice President before Gerald Ford?" it is entirely possible that before long someone will need to find out who Haldeman was. The BRITANNICA does not yield this information without a struggle.

In trying to assess biographical coverage of historical figures I chose Friedrich Engels, Bernadette Devlin and William O. Douglas. Of these figures only Engels receives treatment in all four encyclopedias. BRITANNICA comes out ahead--there is one-half column in the MICROPAEDIA with 14 references to articles, in addition to the major reference to the 2-page biography in the MACROPAEDIA. That biography is very complete, including information about Engels' personal life, his political and philosophical activities and an excellent bibliography. AMERICANA is next in the amount of coverage, though not as complete, and the bibliography leaves a lot to be desired; COLLIER'S is adequate; WORLD BOOK provides basic identification.

Bernadette Devlin is listed only in WORLD BOOK, which provides a short article. William O. Douglas is not listed in the BRITANNICA. He is in all the others with COLLIER'S providing the most up-to-date information; AMERICANA is good although not recently revised; again WORLD BOOK provides only identification.

Coverage of the civil rights movement is quite good in both COLLIER'S and the AMERICANA. WORLD BOOK'S coverage is thorough but the material is more scattered, not neatly drawn together under the heading civil rights. Here is another complaint about the BRITANNICA. Under "Civil Rights Movement, U.S." in the MICROPAEDIA is an article one-and-a-half columns long which traces the modern civil rights movement through the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. This article contains 10 references to the MACROPAEDIA. There is also an entry in the MICROPAEDIA under "Negro American" which refers one to MACROPAEDIA articles pertinent to civil rights; only 2 of these duplicate references found in the "Civil Rights Movement, U.S." article. The most obvious references are to "civil rights movement literary counterpart," "historical and contemporary integration," and "status and civil rights movement change." I don't understand why these references appear in one place and not the other. I fear a student

using this would miss out on some relevant material. "Negro" is the key word in the MICROPAEDIA - not "Black."

I also investigated coverage of organizations in all encyclopedias. It was not possible for me to find anything not also listed in the "Encyclopedia of Associations," but not all libraries have access to that. I chose 12 organizations ranging from the American Association of University Women to Common Cause to SDS and the DAR. WORLD BOOK is far superior to all others in coverage of organizations. WORLD BOOK yielded 11 of the 12; AMERICANA 9 of 12; COLLIER'S 8 of 12 and BRITANNICA only 5 of 12. WORLD BOOK provides not only information about the background and purposes of organizations but also gives, if not the full address, at least the city in which the headquarters is located.

In general COLLIER'S and the AMERICANA are about equal in depth of treatment and coverage of subjects, which is to say somewhat uneven and unpredictable. WORLD BOOK seems to prove that less is more and more is less. Coverage is not as thorough or sophisticated as the others, but there is a wide variety of material included, and it is as useful as most for basic identification.

BRITANNICA is a frustration. I have no basic quarrel with its contents; my objections are about what is left out (I think an encyclopedia published in the United States should include information about Justices of the Supreme Court) and the difficulty of finding what is there.

MRS. GULICK: GEOGRAPHY

"Geography may be defined as the explanatory description of the differences between one locality and another," - COLLIERS. "Geography is that field of learning in which the characteristics of particular places on the earth's surfaces are examined" - (BRITANNICA) "Geography is the field of knowledge that studies the earth as man's home" - (WORLD BOOK) "Geography is a broad general subdivision of knowledge which is concerned with the study of the surface of the earth and the relationship between man and his environment" - (AMERICANA). These definitions taken from the encyclopedias being examined are basically the same; they differ mainly in word arrangement in presenting an idea. The same basic concept can be applied to the articles discussed on Africa in these encyclopedias.

Since 1950 Africa has changed from a continent of European-ruled colonies to a continent of independent, self-governing countries. Before 1950, Europe controlled more than 80% of African people and 90% of the continent's land surface. At the present time there are 43 independent countries. How current is the material available in these encyclopedias, how detailed is the information, and how do the articles compare with each other? The shortest treatise is in the WORLD BOOK - 37 pages, AMERICANA follows with 67 pages, 88 pages in COLLIERS and an in-depth study of 112 pages in BRITANNICA'S MACROPAEDIA. One of the most important facts to remember in using an encyclopedia is to rely on the index for complete information guidance. Format and arrangement also determine the usefulness of an encyclopedia.

In studying geography, statistical information is of utmost importance; all sets scored well here. However, in BRITANNICA the statistical chart was in the MICROPAEDIA and the long article in the MACROPAEDIA. With lengthy articles, outlines are a necessity. AMERICANA'S outline was most useful since the sections were numbered exactly as in the outline; the outline in BRITANNICA

followed a three page introduction, whereas WORLD BOOK continues to place the outline at the end of the article with its study guides, bibliographies, and questions.

Maps, charts and illustrations are also integral parts of geographical studies. All the encyclopedias have maps covering the basic features such as rainfall, population, political division, vegetation, transportation, language, etc. AMERICANA has 6 pages of maps; COLLIERS, 13 pages; and WORLD BOOK, 14 pages. The new look in BRITANNICA is to run the 16 pages of maps concurrently with the article rather than having them bound together in atlas form in the index volume. AMERICANA and COLLIERS had all their colored illustrations in one section, whereas BRITANNICA and WORLD BOOK had them placed throughout the article along with the black and white photos.

As for charts, AMERICANA was the only one to have a detailed African Unity Organization Chart. All encyclopedias except COLLIERS had a large chart naming the independent countries, with area, population, date of independence, government and official language.

Bibliographies which followed various sections are also indicative of the currentness of the article. The copyright dates in the AMERICANA vary from 1954 through the '60's. BRITANNICA listed three and four column annotated bibliographies, several in foreign languages with copyright dates through the '70's. The disadvantage in using COLLIERS is in locating the bibligraphies which are in a separate volume; and in this particular case, the bibliography was disappointing since it listed books such as Gunther's Inside Africa, published in 1955; Wells' Introduction to Africa - 1954; Emil Ludwig's The Nile, 1937.

Last but not least is the accuracy and authoritativeness of the articles. All encyclopedias attempt to get specialists in the field to contribute articles. AMERICANA has signed articles; the list of contributors with credentials being found in Volume I. BRITANNICA has initials with the article, a complete list

of contributors and their specialities found in the PROPAEDIA. COLLIERS has the signature of the contributor at the end of each section, with a complete list in Volume I. Only in WORLD BOOK does one find the authorities with full credentials listed on the first page of the Article. For a concise, factual visual coverage of Africa use WORLD BOOK; use BRITANNICA for in-depth studies especially in the fields of art, literature, music and language. AMERICANA and COLLIERS fall in between these two.

From the broad coverage of the African continent, I checked the entries of a specific African nation - Togo, which became an independent republic in 1960. I compared the treatment in the encyclopedias with that of the Background Notes Bulletin issued by the U.S. State Department in 1974. The length of the articles varied from 4 to 6 columns - shortest in WORLD BOOK, the longest in BRITANNICA. The statistical figures differed in each report; only AMERICANA quoted the same figures found in the State Department Bulletin. The only article to show the Flag in color was BRITANNICA, the others referred you to the subject "Flags of the World." Maps were sparse, merely showing the location of the country in relation to others in Africa. BRITANNICA and WORLD BOOK did have simple maps showing the towns, rivers, boundaries. Short bibliographies were included with the AMERICANA and BRITANNICA articles. Black and white illustrations were found in three of the encyclopedias, none in BRITANNICA. All articles were signed or initialed. As for the current government, only AMERICANA had the same information about the coup d'etat and President Eyademas' position as found in the State Department Bulletin. A brief look at Ukraine will also substantiate the fact that you must know the encyclopedia, its scope, authority and bias. The material covered is basically the same but the slant on politics and government varied according to the contributor. WORLD BOOK and AMERICANA used contributors with background specialities in Slavic studies and associated with reputable educational institutions of the West. BRITANNICA, however,

used two Kiev newspaper editors. Naturally their view is biased, and they do not discuss the opposition to Russian control and government domination of cultural freedom which exists today. The main entries differed also; all encyclopedias used UKRAINE, with the exception of BRITANNICA - which used Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic as the main entry with a cross reference from Ukraine.

BRITANNICA may have changed its format, but it remains basically the same: the articles on art, literature and language of a country excel, current information being sparse. They have done away with the atlas volume but have substituted the need to use two volumes - the MICROPAEDIA and the MACROPAEDIA in researching a subject. AMERICANA has up-dated its material, presents it in an easy to read and understandable language. COLLIERS is comparable to AMERICANA, but having the bibliographies in a separate volume detracts from its usefulness. And, they do not always fully identify their contributors. WORLD BOOK remains the simple, concise, factual, pictorial account on all subjects. And isn't it sad that the conclusions reached in the 1965 study of these encyclopedias can apply so aptly to this study nine years later.

MRS. OHL: MINORITIES

I feel that one of the most important factors in encyclopedia articles is the contributor. In checking over the articles on minorities I found this was particularly true. Alvin Josephy, Jr., who wrote "Red Power" contributed the article in COLLIER'S on the Indian and his relationship with the U.S. government. It is fair and extremely readable. Caroline Bird, author of "Born Female" wrote about Women's Lib for AMERICANA. It is detailed, well-organized and up-to-date. On the other hand, Cynthia Fuchs Epstein's article in World Book on women's lib is simplistic, detached, patronizing. Her women's lib article starts out "Many women's groups protest what they consider unequal treatment." Same attitude is apparent in her biography of Gloria Steinem. I should like to point out that other WORLD BOOK biographies may be couched in simple language but do not have that patronizing tone.

But some of the important questions are - what did the editors decide to include in the encyclopedia, what did they omit, what did they decide to update? Only WORLD BOOK has an article on Mexican-Americans--3½ pages plus a map showing densities of Mexican-American population in the U.S. WORLD BOOK is the only one with a biography of Cesar Chavez plus a picture. COLLIER'S only mentions him as a labor leader in the California entry and devotes six lines to him in "Farm organizations, recent developments."

In checking material on the American Indian and his present relationship with the U.S. government, COLLIERS gave the best treatment to the subject, except that it has not been revised recently, probably written in the early 60's. BRITANNICA'S article is fair and detached, mentions the seizure of Alcatraz but nothing about Wounded Knee or Red Power. The article is not signed, which seems to indicate that the original author didn't like the editing imposed upon his article. All scripts were returned to the original author for approval after being edited for publication. If he didn't like the editing, it was submitted

to a "recognized peer of the author." If this adviser said that the manuscript was "factually accurate and would reflect credit on both the BRITANNICA and its contributor" then the entry was printed without the author's initials. Only WORLD BOOK mentions Wounded Knee and Red Power but gives little real information as to the present problem of the American Indians.

Women's lib movement: AMERICANA'S article by Caroline Bird is the best. BRITANNICA has a fairly adequate description in the MICRO with a reference. "Social differential and stratification" in the MACRO, which passes us on to WOMEN, STATUS OF. From a sociological point of view this article is excellent. COLLIER'S has a comparatively short survey article on Women's movements, very little on women's lib. WORLD BOOK probably has the worst article, as I have already mentioned.

Bibligraphies can be very important; Generally BRITANNICA has the most complete bibliographies; also they are annotated, which is another plus. AMERICANA'S are not nearly as long and usually feature recent books. WORLD BOOK has attractive reading lists for 5th grade through high school. COLLIER'S bibliographies are good, but they do not serve the same purpose as those attached to the articles.

Some of the encyclopedias have special features which may come in handy: WORLD BOOK'S list of biographies which are part of the Reading & Study Guide; AMERICANA'S glossaries which accompany certain technical articles (the one I happened to find was a glossary of Field Hockey terms), survey articles on each of the centuries, separate articles on important works of art, literature, philosophy, economics and operas.-For example, "Canterbury Tales," the "Decameron," "Heart of Darkness," "Heart of Midlothian," "Heartbreak House" can all be found in AMERICANA.

All of the evaluations you have heard are independent opinions, independently arrived at. They are honest attempts to point out some of the differences

in these encyclopedias. Because this is also a personal decision anyone planning to purchase a set would be well advised to spend some time with several encyclopedias before making a definite decision. Price may be an important factor. Supermarket products are seldom worth the price, however low in price they may be. But the Cadillac may not give you the best mileage either. Prices for home purchase, as given in General encyclopedias in print, 1973: AMERICANA--$375 - no other binding; BRITANNICA--$548, $648, $748 depending on how fancy a binding you want; COLLIERS,--$329.50; WORLD BOOK--$224, $244, $264.

Slow curtain

THE END